

LAY REPRESENTATION.

A Large and Interesting Meeting of the Lay Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Last night a very large meeting of lay members of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held in Green Street Church, to consult together upon the subject of the laity being represented in the Conference.

John M. Maris, Esq., called the meeting to order, and suggested that Rev. Thomas T. Tasker should occupy the chair, which was unanimously agreed to. The Vice-Presidents were Mr. William Brown of Green Street, John Whiteman of Arch street, and E. J. Yard of Union street. The secretaries were John R. Lewis of Spring Garden, and Thomas Sappington of Tabernacle. Rev. Dr. Carroll then gave out three verses of the 21st hymn, which was heartily sung, and followed with a most appropriate prayer, in which the reverend gentleman thanked God for His many mercies to the Church in times past, and implored the Divine help in the discussion of the important question which would soon be decided. At the request of the chairman the choir sang a very sweet hymn.

The President said as the meeting would be addressed by Bishop Simpson and their late pastor, he should occupy but a very short time with his remarks. For more than three generations the subject of lay delegation has been a matter of discussion with our great minds both in England and America. Learned men, judges, writers, and statesmen have been for it and against it. Once he thought the subject neither food nor medicine, and that the Church had better let it alone. Before we get it the people will have to understand properly. For one was then set down as opposed to it; but I was never opposed to it; I deprecated it at that time, and on account of the spirit in which it was introduced in the Church. Now the indications lead towards lay representation, and my own feelings and conclusions lead me to think that the time has come. There never was such good feeling in the Church in America as at the present day, and if the ministers will join with their lay brethren the matter will redound to their advantage and the good of the Church. The ministry have chiefly agitated a question, and have felt that there was always a power outside themselves which, if linked with them, would result in great benefits to the Methodists at large. I believe that it has been a conviction with them, and if so, it proves that the view we take of the question is a correct and proper one. I find I am drifting into a speech, but I must check myself. At one time we could not broach this question without raising ill passions and dissensions among us. If the lay representation is right it is expedient, and if it is expedient it is right. There are enough of those that desire it who can wait until there are sufficient of those who do not desire it to do. I must conclude by stating that I favor lay representation.

Rev. Alfred Cookman, of Grace Church, Wilmington, then made an address. He commenced by referring to the rapid events which have taken place during the last few years, and cited the inauguration of Grant, the efforts made by the Cubans for their independence, the speech of Sumner on the Alabama question, the driving of the last spike of the Pacific Railroad, the decoration of the soldiers' graves with the fragrant flowers of May, the union of the Old and New Schools of the Presbyterian Church, which example he hoped would be followed by all the different denominations over this broad republic, and in a few days there would be twenty thousand voices singing a peace jubilee at Boston, and now we have the important question of lay representation to act upon. I do trust that we may have men and women to be actors in the great matters that affect the Church of Christ, and also the government of the country. When I received an invitation to be present here, the chairman stated he wanted to enlist the sympathies of the women of Philadelphia in this very important matter, and from the language in which the letter was drawn it might be implied that I was a ladies' man, and I am perfectly willing to remain under that implication.

Mr. Cookman then related a very touching incident in his experience with a car conductor, which bore upon the question of motherly love. He rejoiced at this juncture, when we are contemplating such a fundamental change in the Church, to call to our aid the female members. He was proud, after a lapse of one hundred years, that the Methodist Episcopal Church was the first Christian denomination which carried out this great and glorious principle of St. Paul, to the effect that there was no distinction between Jews or Gentiles, or any of mankind. We, who are prepared to toil and die, if need be, for our Church, must necessarily be anxious at the position which we are to take before the world at large, and I am convinced of the good that will result from lay representation. Once I was opposed to it; but now, thank God, I am for it. Without this lay representation we are apt to depend too much upon ourselves, and we must thus detract from the prosperity and glory of the Church. It has occurred to me that by the introduction of the lay element into our councils, we shall be drawing the great heart of the members further into the Church. I do not propose to go into a long argument upon this question, as a matter has been fully ventilated in our religious newspapers, and Bishop Simpson has spent a great deal of his time in urging the importance of the subject. This month our continent will be as it were a Methodist battlefield to decide the question of the lay representation. In Wabash avenue the vote has been taken—114 for it, and only one against it; Smoky Pittsburg has voted upon the subject, and in favor of it, and in Wilmington, at Grace Church, on Saturday evening last, all the members voted for it with the exception of one individual, who subsequently came and begged to withdraw his vote. The result was that Grace Church, Wilmington, returned 153 votes for it, and none against it. (Applause.) Now I challenge you in Philadelphia to beat that record. I love this beautiful city. It is good to find that at the close of this month you have carried the banner on this question. I have no doubt of the result. I believe the laity will touch several questions much more delicately and carefully than the ministry. Let us introduce more of the conservative element into our councils. In conclusion, he stated what was wanted was the co-operation of the ladies, which he trusted would be forthcoming. In the ranks of lay delegation he was proud to find his aged mother, his cherished sister, and his beloved wife, by his side. He received a letter to-day to the effect that they were expected to cast their first ballot in favor of lay representation. The reverend gentleman took his seat amid applause.

[At the request of the President, the choir sang the hymn—

"From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Redeemer's name arise,
Through every land by every tongue."

The Rev. Bishop Simpson then made an address. He thought there was feeling in all our confessions that when persons united together in one common work, each wanted to take a part as in business and in other matters, such as fairs gotten up by ladies for charitable purposes. The feeling is a natural one, and runs in our social circle. We all want a say in the government of the country, and the world is struggling after this, and feels that there will never be peace and quietude until every person all over the world has a say in the selection of the government under which he dwells. Now why should the Church be an exception to this rule? The members have responsible duties to perform, and all should take an equal part.

God distributes from above gifts, but so far as the duties are performed by men they are only looked up to as men. What is given of God no man has a right to modify the doctrine which Christ teaches us to believe. Some men say they have been called to preach the Gospel, and therefore, they should make the laws of the Church. I acknowledge the right of preaching the Gospel, but not the right of making Church laws. Methodism does not teach such a doctrine; nor would I uphold such a doctrine. Our lay preachers, who work so laboriously and well, should have a say at our conventions, and not be excluded, as they are at present. I think they are the best body that can enact the laws of the Church, and carry them out properly.

I believe the teachings of the Gospel point to such a course as we are now pursuing. You all remember that passage, "If thy brother offend thee, tell him, and if he heed not, tell it to the Church." Now, you all know what the Church is. Christianity is one great democracy, and the time has come for all of us to blend our powers together. Can we help the ministers? I hold we can. The Apostles at first managed things themselves, and why? Because there was no other Church, but soon they appointed "men of good repute" to carry on the work of the Church. I think the ministers are following in the steps of the Apostles when they say, as they have said in their general conventions to the laity, if you desire to help us in our work, come and do so. When there were not enough ministers to preach the Gospel, Mr. Wesley called down upon him the curse of the world when he said to the laity, "Go ye and preach the word of God to your brethren." I thank God Wesley did take that step, and there true Methodism commenced. Referring to the ladies, the Bishop said his religious convictions were owing to the admonitions of his sainted mother. Wherever there was a soul it should be set at work, and that is the secret of the success of Methodism. There are objections to admitting lay delegates, but I don't think the objectors understand the question. If they are admitted the annual conferences will not be interfered with in any way, but will remain as at present. Lay delegation is this:—From the annual conferences two laymen are selected to sit in General Conference, and from the smaller conference one layman. These will sit together, not interfering with any minister. The same number of ministers as before will be present, with two laymen from the large and one from the smaller of the conferences. They listen, they deliberate, and they discuss matters together, and if there is any question of interest, and a division of votes is called for—as there certainly would be on all questions of Church economy and Church discipline—then the ministers vote first, and nothing is done unless a majority of ministers vote for the matter. Well, if a majority of the ministers vote for the matter, as is now the case, it will be a law. If there be lay delegation after the ministers have voted for it, then the laymen will vote, and it cannot be a law unless a majority of laymen have voted for it. This is the whole of lay delegation.

Bishop Simpson, after some intervening remarks, said he should like to see a union of Methodists, as there had recently been of Presbyterians. Some men did not think laymen were sufficiently read to be competent to take a seat in the General Conference. Now, I am not surprised to hear such an expression from the lips of a high-church man. He then referred to the election of delegates, and asked if any member present would select a bad man. He was sure they would not—it would not be to their interest to do so. It was not essential that a rich man should be elected. The expenses and boarding of delegates will be paid, and I am of opinion that under such circumstances no man would refuse to go for four weeks into the best company in the world. He had made a calculation. It was this:—Suppose two delegates from the Philadelphia Conference were sent to any part of the United States where the General Conference sat, and the expenses were \$100 for travelling, and their board bill might come to another \$100. Now, there are between 30,000 and 40,000 members in the Philadelphia Conference—I will say 40,000 for convenience sake. To meet this expense, it will only cost each member half a cent every four years, and cannot the Church bear that? I am sure it will not break the members. (Laughter.)

The Bishop then showed how the expenses of delegates from India, Oregon, and other distant parts could be provided for at trifling additional cost. In the course of his remarks he said lay representation was essential to union with other Methodist bodies, as they have it and will not unite with us without it. If there is to be no union, it is necessary for self-protection. If we are without it, they will have an advantage over us. My conviction being that this element will increase our strength and unity, I pray God for its success. (Applause.)

NEWS SUMMARY.

City Affairs.

—The journeyman carpenters of the southeastern section of the city held a meeting last night at the N. W. corner of Second and Pine streets. A temporary organization was perfected by electing as president Israel Ball; as secretary William Weller. A committee on constitution and by-laws was appointed, and the signatures of a large number to the roll of membership were obtained. The meeting then adjourned to meet at the call of the officers.

—Complaints are made to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of nails carelessly dropped in the streets by the coopers along the wharves. Some valuable horses have been so seriously injured by this carelessness that it has been necessary to kill them.

—The alarm of fire last night about 9 o'clock was caused by the burning of some material in the coach shop of Pfaff & Kroll, southeast corner of Pemberton and Wallace streets. Loss about \$200.

—While some workmen were engaged yesterday afternoon in tearing down an ice-house, at Thirty-fifth and Sycamore streets, the wall fell, and one of the workmen named George Miller, aged forty years, was instantly killed. His body was taken to his late residence, in Thirty-seventh street, above Haverford.

—John Martin, a stevedore, thirty-five years old, residing in Annapolis street, attempted to take his life yesterday afternoon by cutting his throat with a knife. Intemperance was the chief cause of the act. He inflicted a severe wound, and it is doubtful if he can recover. He has a family. Last evening he was admitted into the Pennsylvania Hospital.

Domestic Affairs.

—Gold closed yesterday at 138½.

—The Secretary of the Treasury has sold \$2,000,000.

—The Conservative Republicans of Mississippi have issued a call for a convention.

—The brig Corinthian, of Ellsworth, Me., is reported wrecked near Kingston, Jamaica.

—In the Convention at Richmond, Virginia, yesterday, eight negroes were nominated for the Legislature.

—The Sub-Census Committee is in session at Washington, making arrangements to take the census.

—Washington now has seven colored Councilmen, one colored Alderman, and a colored City Register.

—The dead body of a man was found hanging from a tree, yesterday morning, in Central Park, New York.

—Edward Humphrey, a lunatic, formerly a State Prison convict, escaped from the Asylum at Worcester, Mass.

—The delegates to the State Convention from Chester county have been instructed to vote for Geary for Governor.

—The bill appropriating one million dollars to the Western Maryland Railroad passed the Baltimore City Councils yesterday.

—The Census Committee yesterday examined ex-Superintendent Kennedy in reference to how the next census should be taken.

—The Treasury Department at Washington is in possession of a record of the notes stolen from the United States Depository at Santa Fe.

—The building of Wheathead & Brothers, and the paper-box factory of Spooner & Co., on Pearl street, New York, was destroyed by fire last night.

—The steamship Tybee, lately seized on suspicion of being intended for the Cubans, yesterday sailed from New York, flying the Dominican flag.

—Miss Amanda Craig, who brought suit against E. P. Sprague, of Chicago, for breach of promise of marriage, has been awarded \$100,000 damages.

—An editor of a Secessionist newspaper, and several other persons, at Warrentown, Ga., were arrested yesterday. The offense is not yet known.

—Out of the twenty-nine members of City Councils elected in Washington yesterday, all were Republicans—twenty-one white men and eight colored.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Whelan was burned to death in Buffalo, N. Y., on Monday night, her clothes being ignited by the careless use of coal oil in lighting a kitchen fire.

—President Grant, accompanied by his family, Secretaries Rawlins and Cox, and several friends, started for West Point to-day, to be present at the military examination.

—Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph G. Crane, Commander of the Fourth Military District of Mississippi, was shot dead by a man named Yerger, at Jackson, Miss., yesterday.

—Reverdy Johnson intends to publish a defense of his ministerial course in England. He says that Sumner approved of his intended policy before leaving the United States for England.

—The Attorney-General of Indiana is of the opinion that the passing of measures in the Indiana Legislature, after the resignation of forty-two Democratic members, was in accordance with the State Constitution, and the measures so passed are laws.

—The Internal Revenue Commissioner has decided that no deductions of taxes for leakage will be allowed on spirits based on the original measurement when they are placed in warehouses, nor upon any other spirits produced before July 28, 1868, unless they were regauged previous to April 14, 1869.

Foreign News.

VIENNA, June 8.—It is said the Austrian Government refuses to decide in the matter of the neutrality of the Suez Canal without the advice and co-operation of France.

MADRID, June 8.—The new constitution has been promulgated in all the provinces. Perfect order prevails throughout the country. Telegrams have been received from Espinar, Acting Captain-General of Cuba, countermanding the previous order for reinforcements, and this is accepted as an indication of an improved state of affairs on that island, and gave great satisfaction.

PARIS, June 8.—The results in fifteen additional elections by the ballot have been declared. Seven official and eight opposition candidates were elected. Among the successful candidates are MM. Latour and Dumoulin.

Last night, about 12 o'clock, great crowds gathered in the Quartier Montmartre, and the police were obliged to use force in dispersing them. Some were injured, and many arrests were made, but the crowds finally retired to their homes, and quiet was restored.

A scene of disorder also occurred in front of the Hotel de Ville, where many persons were injured and a large number arrested. The total number of arrests made last night in consequence of these disturbances was one hundred and twenty.

LONDON, June 8.—The Times to-day refers to the fact that some of the Tory Peers declined to follow the policy in regard to the Irish Church bill determined upon by the majority at their meeting last Saturday, and trusts that the danger of a collision is past. The experience of the last two days reaffirms the truth that on a direct issue the Lords must allow the national will to prevail. The present aspect indicates the passage of the bill to its second reading by a small majority.

The same paper, in an article on the French elections, points to the fact that 3,500,000 Frenchmen are voting in opposition to only 1,000,000 who support the Government. Whatever relative strength the parties may have in the Corps Legislatif, this is the significant result of universal suffrage, and is bound to influence the entire policy of the French Government.

The Telegraph, referring to the attitude of the House of Lords, says:—"The nation must govern the nation. To this Lord Derby and other peers assented, when last year they wasted the judgment of the nation on the Secessory bill. The peers now may well accept the jurisdiction they appealed."

The News has an editorial on the Alabama controversy. It believes the storm of feeling is clearing away, and says:—"We are now about ready to deal with facts. Americans have forgotten facts; they recollect unfriendly words, but disregard the memory of friendly deeds. Great Britain is ready to bear her own responsibility, but when charged with all the damage done to American commerce during the late war, she must remind Americans that only a small part of the damage has at her door, or will be admitted by her."

In the House of Lords, to-night Earl H. Rowley gave notice that he should move that

the second reading of the Irish Church bill be postponed six months.

The Ascot races commenced to-day. The weather was fine, and the Prince and Princess of Wales were present. The attendance was immense. The Trial stakes were won by Yagelond, the Biennial stakes by Beville's bay colt, and the Gold Cup sweepstakes by Thorwaldsen, beating Monmouth and Lancet. The Prince of Wales stakes were won by Martindale, beating Pero, Gomez, and Typhon, and the Triennial stakes by Fornosa, beating Restitution and The Laird.

The Board of Control.

A stated meeting of this Board was held yesterday afternoon, President Steinmetz presiding.

Amongst the communications received were the following:—

One from the Thirteenth section, asking that the salary of the janitor of the Wyoming school be increased to one thousand dollars per annum.

One from the Twentieth section, asking authority to open a division school in the Spring Garden House house.

One from the Fourteenth section, asking that measures be taken to dispose of the Monroe Grammar School, in accordance with an act of Assembly.

One from the Twentieth section, east, asking for an appropriation of \$1000 for alterations to building on Eleventh street, below Thompson.

One from the Twentieth section, west, asking for the purchase of a lot on Oxford street, near Eighteenth.

One from the Twenty-second section, asking for an appropriation of \$5000 for the erection of a school building on Limekiln turnpike, a lot for that purpose having been donated by the owner.

One from the Fourth section, stating that the new school building at Shippen and Guilford streets had been named "Kilston."

After some discussion the name was confirmed.

Mr. Michael Blynn, appointed Controller from the Twenty-first ward, appeared and took the oath of office.

The Committee on Accounts reported bills amounting to \$211,456.27, which were ordered to be paid.

The Committee on Supplies reported that proposals for supplying fuel had been advertised for and received.

The committee is of opinion that coal can be purchased at a later day at a much more reasonable rate than at the present time. The contract for charcoal had been awarded to Richard Doney, at sixty cents per bushel.

Mr. Houston said that if the contracts had been awarded at the amounts contained in the proposals, it would have been necessary to ask City Councils for an extra appropriation. The total amount of the bids is \$49,000, while the appropriation is \$45,000.

Mr. Stanton thought that in a month or two hence coal will not be any cheaper than it is now.

After considerable debate the resolution authorizing another advertisement for proposals was agreed to.

Mr. Lukens, of the Committee on Text Books, submitted a report in favor of placing "Martindale's History of the United States" on the list of text books in use in the schools.

The Committee on Property reported resolutions authorizing the lease of Bethlehem Church, in American street, above Trenton avenue, at \$400 per annum, and Colored Baptist Church, Ludlow street, above Forty-first, at \$200 per annum; asking City Councils for an appropriation of \$3500 for the necessary alterations to building on Eleventh street, below Thompson; and asking for an appropriation of \$8000 for repairs to the Northeast Grammar School. Adopted.

The Reformed Convention.

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON'S PROCEEDINGS.

Yesterday afternoon the General Synod of the Reformed Church reassembled, and the session was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Demund. The order arranged for the afternoon was set aside, and the report of the Committee on the Professors was presented and accepted.

The following resolution was offered:—

Resolved, That, in consideration of the continued high cost of living, the sum of \$— be added to each of the Professors in the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick.

The report was referred to the Committee on Board of Directors.

The report of the Professors was taken up in order, and so much as referred to the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick was adopted. Professor C. E. Crispell was admitted to the floor of the Synod for the purpose of making such statements and arguments as he might deem important for a full understanding of the subject now before the Synod.

Rev. Dr. Philips addressed the Synod in relation to the Professors of Hope College.

Rev. Samuel J. Rogers followed in a brief address in reply to the remarks of Dr. Philips.

Rev. Jacob Vandermeulen also addressed the Synod on the subject of Professors.

Rev. Dr. Verrill, D. D., followed in a brief address.

Rev. E. E. Crispell, Professor of Theology at Hope College, replied. A resolution was then passed dividing Hope College into two parts; also, other resolutions for the government of that institution. After prayer the Synod adjourned.

In the evening a general meeting was held in the same church, when addresses were made by Rev. E. C. Seudder, Rev. L. W. Kip, and Rev. J. H. Ballagh.

MARINE TELEGRAPH.

For additional Marine News see First Page.

ALMANAC FOR PHILADELPHIA—THIS DAY.

SUN SETS 7:21. MOON RISES 5:13.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

FOR AMERICA.

City of Cork, Liverpool, New York via Hall, May 22.

Alaska, New York, Liverpool, May 23.

Delaware, New York, Liverpool, May 24.

Erin, New York, Liverpool, May 25.

Germania, New York, Liverpool, May 26.

Britannia, New York, Liverpool, May 27.

Manhattan, New York, Liverpool, May 28.

Java, New York, Liverpool, May 29.

CLEARED YESTERDAY.

Steamship Brunette, Brooklyn, New York, John F. O'Neil.

Steamship J. S. Shriver, Kiggins, Baltimore, A. Groves, Jr.

Steamship Maria Magdalena, Dalem, Stettin, L. Westergaard.

Steamship Elizabeth, Amers, Cardenas, J. E. Bazley & Co.

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